

STATUTORY MEETING

August 29, 1960

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA, met in the Council Chambers in City Hall, on Monday, August 29, 1960, at the hour of seven-thirty o'clock (7:30 P.M. D.S.T.) in statutory session with Mayor Thos. L. Lemon presiding.

Members present: Sikes, Peace, Graves, Chitwood, Hickman, and Marxson.

Members absent: Faucett.

Councilman Sikes presented Appropriation Ordinance No. 3, 1960 for first reading by the Clerk-Treasurer. Councilman Sikes moved, seconded by Councilman Chitwood that Appropriation Ordinance No. 3, 1960 be advanced to second reading by title only. Upon a roll call vote the motion was unanimously carried.

After second reading by title only ~~was~~ by the Clerk-Treasurer, Councilman Chitwood moved, seconded by Councilman Peace that Appropriation Ordinance No. 3, 1960 be duly adopted. After discussion and public hearing a roll call vote was taken and Appropriation Ordinance No. 3, 1960 was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Hickman moved, seconded by Councilman Peace that the Council Committee on Public Safety arrange to give their report on the petition of traffic problems south of Mitchell Street, Southdowns Drive, Ruby Lane, and Circle Drive at the next meeting; motion unanimously carried.

Councilman Hickman presented the following Resolution:

The members of the Common Council of the City of Bloomington acknowledge the report of the Taxation Committee of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce.

We commend this public action committee for its diligent efforts in investigating the various budgets prepared for the operation of our municipal government as financed by the civil city tax rate. This continuing effort by the Tax Committee of the Chamber of Commerce is providing a valuable service to our community. We know that the committee has given due recognition to the sizeable ~~reduction~~ reduction in budgets already made by the Common Council in the absence of other specific criticisms we assume the committee concurs in the actions of the Council to maintain a realistic tax levy in relation to services required and offered.

We especially want to refer to the four points set forth in the letter of recommendations transmitted to the Council.

1. Comments on the operation of the Fire Department were significant. However it should be pointed out that the addition of two men to the Fire Department is four less than the number requested by the Fire Chief and 16 less than the number recommended by the Indiana Fire Rating Bureau. It is the feeling of the Council that the addition of two men is the minimum effort that can be made at this time to safeguard the outstanding fire safety record of the City of Bloomington and to prevent fire insurance rates from possible increases.

The Indiana State Legislature passed a law in the 1959 session which reduced the working hours of the Fire Department personnel as follows: From 72 hours on duty and 72 hours off duty to 63 hours on duty to 63 hours off duty. This law in itself created a manpower hardship for almost all cities in the State of Indiana. Many cities were forced to pass special appropriations and employ additional men during the current year. The City of Bloomington continued shorthanded under the new state law and as a result we can not possibly have a full manpower as required on normal and abnormal fire runs. It is necessary for our department to call off-duty firemen to assist when such fires occur in this city. The Indiana Fire Rating Bureau could very easily impose a change in classification which would increase fire insurance rates in this city as a result of our failure to comply with manpower requirements.

2. On the matter of creating advisory boards for consultation on revisions of the City's Master Plan, it should be pointed out that this is a most worthy recommendation. It is hoped that active citizens advisory groups will actively work for creation of an effective New Master Plan. The City Plan Commission and planning consultants will follow your recommendations.

3. Recommendations for changes in fee schedules to allow for direct payments of specialized recreation program outside the tax structure have merit and are being referred to the Board of Parks and Recreation for consideration and action.

4. A matter of bulk purchasing of gasoline has been studied by the City of Bloomington at various times in the past and your recommendation has considerable merit. We would like to point out that the prices that you quoted as being the prices which Monroe County pays for gasoline at the amount of 19.3 per gallon for regular gasoline and 21.3 for highest gasoline is not entirely accurate as the county also pays 6 cents additional per gallon in the way of state taxes. The state gasoline tax is not an exempt item to either the city or county. The difference between the bulk price and the price that the city pays to selected service stations has not been enough to warrant converting to city owned tanks and pumps. The cost of employing a man to operate and record and keep records of such city owned equipment would more than offset a savings at tank car prices. In addition, we would not benefit from the services which are contributed at no extra costs to our police cars and other equipment by the various independent station owners who are businessmen and taxpayers in our city. This matter will be further studied as per your recommendations consideration will be given to your suggestion of further benefits can be accrued to the City.

In conclusion be it resolved that the Common Council of the City of Bloomington urges the Tax Committee to continue its valuable interest in these and all other tax matters involving the City of Bloomington and the other taxing units in Monroe County to the end that the taxpayers will receive the necessary and needed services they are entitled to.

and moved, seconded by Councilman Graves that this resolution be approved as read; motion unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Thos J Lemon
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Mary A. Dunlap
Clerk-Treasurer

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